

FBIS 83 FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ANALYSIS NOTE AG/X

*Radio*  
(MOSCOW REFERENCE TO SOVIET "ALERT" IN MIDEAST WAR

THE FIRST KNOWN REFERENCE IN MOSCOW MEDIA TO A SOVIET MILITARY ALERT DURING THE OCTOBER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST APPEARED IN A 16 FEBRUARY MOSCOW ARABIC-LANGUAGE BROADCAST OF AN INTERVIEW WITH CAIRO AL-AKHBAR OF CHIEF EDITOR HUSAYN FAHMI. IN THE MOSCOW RADIO INTERVIEW, FAHMI SAID THAT "THE STRONG SOVIET INTERVENTION, THE STERN SOVIET WARNING TO ISRAEL, AND THE ALERTING OF THE SOVIET FORCES TO GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO ESTABLISH PEACE AND STOP THE AGGRESSION" CHANGED THE SITUATION COMPLETELY. IT LED, HE SAID, TO THE INTERVENTION OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS AND THEIR PLEDGE TO ESTABLISH A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. FAHMI WAS RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON THE EFFECT OF THE OCTOBER FIGHTING ON ARAB-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP.

IN REACTING TO THE 25 OCTOBER U.S. WORLDWIDE MILITARY ALERT, MOSCOW HAD OBSCURED THE PRESIDENT'S AND KISSINGER'S EXPLANATIONS THAT THE U.S. ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT CERTAIN SOVIET UNITS HAD BEEN ALERTED FOR POSSIBLE DISPATCH TO THE MIDDLE EAST. A TASS STATEMENT ON THE U.S. ALERT, ISSUED ON 27 OCTOBER, HAD MERELY REJECTED "ABSURD" JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE ACTION BY "OFFICIALS" ON THE GROUNDS THAT SOME ACTIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION "ALLEGEDLY" GAVE CAUSE FOR CONCERN. AND BREZHNEV IN HIS WORLD PEACE CONGRESS SPEECH ON 26 OCTOBER SPOKE CRYPTICALLY OF ACTIONS "IN SOME NATO COUNTRIES" DISSEMINATING "FANTASTIC SPECULATIONS" CONCERNING SOVIET INTENTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BREZHNEV WENT ON TO DISCLOSE THAT IN RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT AS-SADAT'S REQUEST FOR U.S. AND SOVIET TROOPS, THE SOVIET UNION HAD ALREADY SENT "REPRESENTATIVES" AND HOPED THE UNITED STATES WOULD DO THE SAME.]

20 FEB 2111Z JB/JZ

13. USSR - MOSCOW RADIO REFERS TO SOVIET "ALERT" IN MIDDLE EAST WAR  
(U) *ME* *US 25 Cool Alert*

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Analysis note.

The first known reference in Moscow media to a Soviet military alert during the October war in the Middle East appeared in a 16 February Moscow Arabic-language broadcast of an interview with Cairo Al-Akhbar Chief Editor Husayn Fahmi. In the Moscow radio interview, Fahmi said that "the strong Soviet intervention, the stern Soviet warning to Israel, and the alerting of the Soviet forces to go to the Middle East to establish  
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